

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same number:

1 12. (currently amended) A method for limiting the operational life of software
2 in a network environment, the method comprising:

3 transmitting a program applet with a password embedded
4 therewithin from a server computer to a client computer, via a network, the
5 password having a limited operational life, and the program applet including
6 executable code that runs on the client computer;

7 receiving by the server computer, from said program applet at
8 running on the client computer, via said network, (i) a request for information
9 stored in a restricted access storage area of the server computer, and (ii) said
10 embedded password;

11 authenticating said embedded password by the server computer,
12 whenever said receiving occurs;

13 thereafter transmitting said information from the server
14 computer, to said program applet at-running on the client computer, via said
15 network, while said embedded password is valid; and

16 invalidating said embedded password by the server computer,
17 coincident with an invalidation event.

1 13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 invalidating comprises invalidating said embedded password at a predetermined
3 time.

1 14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 invalidating comprises invalidating said embedded password after lapse of a
3 predetermined time from when said request was received.

1 15. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 invalidating comprises invalidating said embedded password upon the detection
3 of a loss of communication with said client.

1 16. (canceled)

1 17. (canceled)

1 18. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 transmitting a program applet comprises generating said embedded password.

1 27. (currently amended) A network-based software authentication system
2 comprising a server computer, the server computer comprising:

3 a password generator;
4 password validation apparatus;
5 a restricted-access storage area;
6 a program applet including executable code that runs on a client
7 computer; and
8 invalidation apparatus;

9 wherein said server computer is operative to:

10 a) cause said password generator to generate a password, the
11 password having a limited operational life;

12 b) embed said password within said program applet, and
13 transmit said program applet with said password embedded therewithin to ~~a~~-the
14 client computer via a network;

15 c) receive from said program applet ~~at-running on~~ the client
16 computer, (i) a request for information, and (ii) said embedded password for
17 authentication;

18 d) authenticate said embedded password using said password
19 validation apparatus, whenever information requested is stored in the
20 restricted-access storage area;

21 e) transmit said information to said program applet ~~at-running on~~
22 the client computer, via said network, while said embedded password is valid; and

23 f) invalidate said embedded password using said invalidation
24 apparatus coincident with an invalidation event.

1 28. (original) A system according to claim 27 wherein said invalidation event
2 comprises the arrival of a predetermined time.

1 29. (previously presented) A system according to claim 27 wherein said
2 invalidation event comprises the lapsing of a predetermined time from when said
3 request was received.

1 **30. (original)** A system according to claim 27 wherein said invalidation event
2 comprises the detection of a loss of communication with said client.

1 **31. (canceled)**

1 **32. (canceled)**

1 **33. (canceled)**